

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 EB-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 SSM-01 L-01 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 EUR-08

/051 W

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P R 250538Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8035

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 2800

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: FOR JO XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH RIFAI-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. WHEN I SAW RIFAI MAY 24, HE MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

2. ON LEBANON, HE SAW A QUIETING OF SITUATION AS A HOPEFUL SIGN. FRENCH INITIATIVE MIGHT BE SEEN BY SYRIANS AS A COVER FOR POSSIBLE LATER INTERVENTION BY THEMSELVES, EITHER IN CONCERT WITH FRENCH OR POSSIBLY "EXCUSE" BY FRENCH INITIATIVE. WHEN I TOLD HIM OF BAATH PARTY CONDEMNATION OF FRENCH MOVE WHICH WE HAD SEEN HERE HE BECAME LESS CATEGORICAL ABOUT HIS CONCLUSIONS.

3. JORDAN HAD RECEIVED NO LATE WORD FROM ASAD ON TRYING TO RESTART RIYADH CONFERENCE. JORDANIANS SEEM TO THINK SYRIANS ARE DEEPLY DUG IN OVER DISCUSSION OF SINAI II. RIFAI TOLD ME SYRIANS WERE LEFT IDEA BY SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS THAT EGYPT WAS READY TO RENEGE ON SUCH SINAI II COMMITMENTS AS PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH CANAL. SADAT HE SAID HAD AGREED ACCORDING TO SAUDIS AND
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KUWAITIS. WHEN FAHMI MADE HIS STATEMENT ABOUT NO DISCUSSION OF

SINAI II, THEN SADAT RETREATED.

4. RIFAI ALSO SAID THAT SYRIANS SEEMED TO THINK THAT JALLUD WAS
HAVING SOME SUCCESS IN GETTING IRAQIS TO TURN ON THE OIL LINE
AGAIN. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE TERMS WERE, BUT SYRIANS WERE TOLD
BY JALLUD THAT IRAQ LIKELY TO DO
SO VERY SOON. HE ALSO MENTIONED JALLUD'S EFFORTS TO BUILD AGAIN
A SOLID REJECTION FRONT AROUND LIBYA,IRAQ,ALGERIA AND SYRIA.
RIFAI SAID ASAD WILL NEVER AGREE. HE WILL NOT BECOME A REJ-
ECTIONISTS, HE HAS TOO MUCH TO GAIN FROM A NEGOTIATED ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL. HE WILL NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO REJECT IN ADVANCE AN
OFFER WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. HE SAID OF COURSE THERE IS NO
POSSIBILITY OF JORDAN JOINING ANY SUCH FRONT.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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